



PIONEER HEADFRAME

SAVING THE PAST WITH THE OSM PILOT PROGRAM

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Finding the funds to save historical artifacts has been a difficult endeavor during AML reclamation work. We will look at using the OSM Pilot Program funding to revitalize an historic mining headframe and some associated equipment. The whole premise of the program is to provide an AML related economic benefit to the area where the money is used.

This steel headframe spent the first part of its life acting as a lift for bringing coal mine workers and mining equipment up from the coal mine in Northeast Pa. where it was originally built in Schuylkill County. It spent the better part of 50 years in this work location. Mining ended, the headframe and shaft took on a new role and then it was time for reclamation and its removal.

It was removed to the Pioneer Tunnel Mine Tour Complex for storage and hopefully later use there. The 2016 OSM Pilot program allotted Pennsylvania millions of dollars for AML reclamation and other economic projects related to the AML work. A request was sent to DEP BAMR for consideration of restoring the headframe and associated equipment from the Pioneer Tunnel Mine Tour Complex.

The Pilot program has specific criteria and a process to utilize the funds for restoration. OSM wants the project developed similar to a regular AML workup using a subgrant and ATP. The development must show economic benefit in the future. There are some specific items to be aware of that can slow down the process tremendously if not worked on early enough. The quality of the restoration is a consideration which costs more.

The head frame has been erected and will be painted and landscaped. Its purpose is to be a noticeable exhibit in the coal town area to draw new visitors to the tour and tell some more bygone history of coal mining in Pennsylvania.